



PROJECT DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP OPEN HOUSE

Alexandria Community Center, Highway 53 & 5th Street, Alexandria, NE
4:00-6:00 PM; Tuesday, October 30, 2012

BR-STP-53-1(103) **Alexandria South Bridges** CN 42474

STP-53-1(104) **Alexandria South** CN 42533

LOCATION: The proposed projects are located on Nebraska Highway 53 (N-53) with construction beginning at the junction of US-136 and N-53 and proceeding north approximately seven miles. The construction ends north of the north corporate limits of Alexandria. The construction would be entirely in Thayer County, Nebraska.

PURPOSE AND NEED: The purpose of the projects is to preserve the N-53 transportation asset, improve the reliability of the transportation system, and to perpetuate the mobility of the traveling public. The projects are needed because:

- 1) The aging roadway surface is approaching the end of its serviceable life and results in excessive roadway surface operation and maintenance costs,
- 2) The Little Blue River Bridge and Big Sandy Creek Bridge are considered structurally deficient and do not meet minimum design standards for bridges to remain in place, and
- 3) Three existing timber structures do not meet current Nebraska Minimum Design Standards (MDS) with respect to fixed objects within the clear zone.

SCOPE OF WORK:

The proposed improvements would include; resurfacing of the existing highway with asphalt, removing and replacing the 22-foot-wide bridge structures at the Little Blue River (S053 00412) and the Big Sandy Creek (S053 00610) with 32-foot-wide bridges, extension of the box culvert at a tributary to Big Sandy Creek (S053 00649), removing and replacing three timber drainage structures south of the Little Blue River, and elimination of barriers to access by building *Americans with Disabilities Act* Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) compliant curb ramps, where required, at crosswalks in the Village of Alexandria. The Department proposes to construct the bridges on existing alignment.

TRAFFIC COUNT:

Nebraska Highway 53 (N-53)

Year	2012	2038
Vehicles Per Day	240	240
% Trucks	10%	10%

The existing bridge structures consist of two 11-foot-wide driving lanes; this width is insufficient to allow for phased removal and construction under traffic (building half at a time in order to avoid detouring).

ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE: The proposed construction is not currently scheduled, but is listed in the District's five-year (2013-2018) program. The proposed projects could begin construction as early as spring of 2018 or 2019. The projects together would take one to two years to construct.

ACCOMMODATION OF TRAFFIC: Constructing the bridges on existing alignment is being proposed with highway traffic being detoured on U.S. Highway 136 (US-136), U.S. Highway 81 (US-81), and Nebraska Highway 4 (N-4). Access to adjacent properties would be maintained during construction, but may be limited at times due to phasing requirements. The resurfacing of N-53 would be done "under traffic" (without detouring).

RIGHT-OF-WAY: It is anticipated that new right-of-way (ROW) and temporary and permanent easements (TE & PE) will be required. Relocations of homes or businesses are not anticipated with the projects as proposed.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS: There would be wetland impacts resulting from construction activities. Wetland mitigation may be required. The existing N-53 Little Blue River Bridge is eligible for placement on the National Registry of Historic Places.

ESTIMATED COST: The combined estimated cost of the proposed projects is approximately \$7.6 million. The estimated cost of *Alexandria South* is \$1.9 million and *Alexandria South Bridges* is \$5.7 million. Final cost estimates will be influenced by the construction option(s) chosen.